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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Mozambique, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Zambia: draft resolution

Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

The General Assembly,

Deeply disturbed by the growing number of internally displaced persons throughout the world who receive inadequate protection and assistance, and conscious of the serious problems this is creating for the international community,

Recalling the relevant norms of international human rights instruments as well as of international humanitarian law,

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 1/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, which calls for a comprehensive approach by the international community with regard to refugees and displaced persons,

Reiterating its call for a more concerted response by the international community to the needs of internally displaced persons, while emphasizing that activities on their behalf must not undermine the institution of asylum,

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1/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Conscious of the continuing need for the United Nations system to gather information comprehensively on the issue of the protection of human rights of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Welcoming the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1995/57 of 3 March 1995, 2/ in which it extended the mandate of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons for another three years to continue his review of the need for protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including his compilation and analysis of legal norms, the root causes of internal displacement, prevention and long-term solutions,

Encouraged by the progress made thus far by the representative of the Secretary-General in developing a legal framework, studying the causes and manifestations of internal displacement, and analysing institutional arrangements, undertaking dialogue with Governments, issuing a series of reports on particular country situations together with proposals for remedial measures, and raising the level of awareness, both at the national and international levels, to the problem of internal displacement,

Welcoming the cooperation already established between the representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations humanitarian assistance and development organizations engaged in protecting and assisting internally displaced persons, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other relevant organizations,

Welcoming in particular the decision by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to promote further consultations with the representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of internally displaced persons, as well as the decision by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its working group to invite the representative to participate in relevant meetings as well as in its Task Force on internally displaced persons,

Recalling the report of the representative of the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session, 3/ and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein with regard to improving protection of, assistance to and development for internally displaced persons,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the representative of the Secretary-General; 4/

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda, (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

3/ E/CN.4/1995/50 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, Add.2 and Add.2/Corr.1, Add.3 and Add.4.

4/ A/50/558, annex.

2. Commends the representative for the catalytic role he is playing to raise the level of consciousness about the plight of internally displaced persons;

3. Noting the efforts of the representative to develop a legal framework and to promote strategies for better protection, assistance and development of internally displaced persons;

4. Encourages the representative to continue his analysis of the causes of internal displacement, the needs of those displaced, measures of prevention and ways to increase protection, assistance and solutions for the internally displaced persons;

5. Also encourages the representative to continue to pay specific attention in his review to the protection and assistance needs of women and children, bearing in mind the relevant strategic objective in the Beijing Declaration 5/ and the Platform for Action, 6/ adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995;

6. Calls upon the representative to continue to study the problem of internally displaced persons and to invite specialists and consultants to contribute expert assistance during missions as well as research facilities;

7. Invites the representative to finalize his compilation and analysis of existing legal norms for inclusion in his report to the Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-second session;

8. Calls upon the Commission on Human Rights to consider the question of establishing a framework in this regard, such as a declaration for internally displaced persons, on the basis of the representative's report and his recommendations therein;

9. Calls upon all Governments to continue to facilitate the activities of the representative, encourages them to give serious consideration to inviting the representative to visit their countries so as to enable him to study and analyse more fully the issues involved, and thanks those Governments that have already done so;

10. Invites Governments to give due consideration, in dialogue with the representative, to the recommendations and suggestions made to them by the representative, in accordance with his mandate, and to inform him of measures taken thereon;

11. Urges all relevant United Nations humanitarian and development agencies concerned to establish frameworks of cooperation with the representative in order to provide all possible assistance and support to him in

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5/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

6/ Ibid., annex II.

the implementation of his programme of activities, and invites the representative to report thereon;

12. Calls upon the representative and regional intergovernmental organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to intensify their cooperation with a view to encouraging their undertaking initiatives to facilitate assistance to and protection of internally displaced persons;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the representative to carry out his mandate effectively;

14. Decides to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-second session.